



Stranger Looking For Wealth Gives the Major a Surprise.

VICTIM WAS WILLING ENOUGH.

But as His Capital Consisted of Just 25 Cents He Was Not the Kind of a Man the Promoter Cared to Do Business With.

[Copyright, 1997, by E. C. Parcells.] The grand promoter had just reached his office and thrown up the solitary window to let the spring sunshine and the sougs of robins and bluebirds float into the room at so much a float when the door, which he had careleady left unlocked, opened to admit a man who was a stranger to him. The man had a smile on his face, and that proved that he wasn't a creditor. His attitude was not at all aggressive, and that showed he was not a bill collector. His look was not interrogative, and therefore he was not going to inquire Major Crofoot?"



PIEBED UP A QUARTER OF A DOLLAR. for the corn doctor or dentist upstairs. The grand promoter was puzzled, and he held his breath while the caller looked around and made ready to ask: "Excuse me, but is this the office of



MISS MINNIE CARR, WASHINGTON BEAUTY.

ngton just now is approaching the close of one of the Capital City's prilliant social seasons. Miss Misule Carr, while still young in society, been for two or three seasons one of the most popular girls in Washington. Is always to be considered when the favorites are mentioned.





OLD CHURCH TOWER AT JAMESTOWN.

Many persons who visit the Jamestown exposition near Norfolk take a trip up the James river to the site of old Jamestown, the settlement of 300 years ago, of which nothing now remains save a few stone foundations and a crumbling old church tower. This tower is a treasured link with America's them off on the grounds that they were past, and the Society For the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities is guarding trying to swindle us. Didn't you read it zeniously from vandalism.

"Major Crofcot, the grand promot

"The same." "The Major Crofeot who has made a hundred different men rich by letting I'm looking for?" exclaimed the other. them in on the ground floor of his enterprises?"

you today?" "Look here, resjor," continued the

caller as he helped himself to a seat on one of the broken backed chairs, T've got a little money to invest, and I was advised to come to you. I was told that you could double and quadruple it for me in six months."

Breathed With Difficulty.

The major breathed with d'fficulty. that morning and had found it he could reply:

sir, and you could not have arrived at a more opportune moment. I have organized and am just incorporating the Mr. White.

greatest, grandest enterprise of the forty that I have had to do with in the last five years. I can make a rich man of you in a year."

"By crickey, but you are the feller "My name's White-Jim White. I've saved a little money, and I want to "I am the man. What can I do for get rich. I'm no hog, but I want a span of horses, a diamond pin and enough to buy three tons of coal at ing like it under the sun. The Great ouce. Go shead and tell me what you've | American Hole In the Ground will do got. I've got the rhino right here in my pocket to hand over."

"My dear sir," purred the major as his smile took on the look of a bunch of ripe yellow bananas, "my latest and greatest and grandest enterprise is "The Great American Hole In the He had counted up his cash capital Ground.' The capital is \$5,000,000, but we have only to pay in \$1,000 for adamounted to but 27 cents. His shoes vertising purposes. The shares are needed repairing, his clothes needed nonassessable and will be sold for cleaning and the landlord would be whatever we can get. Everything that after him for the rent that week. comes in over the first thousand is so Here was a fly that had walked into much velvet. I am the president of his net, and he looked like an easy fly the corporation, and I want a secreto work. It was fifteen seconds before tary. His duties will consist in help-Ing me open the mail and taking out "You have come to the right place, and counting the money sent in by

"Not at all, sir. On the contrary, it's a perfectly legitimate enterprise: I can take up a daily paper and show you thirty advertisements of the same The only difference is that while they advertise their schemes as copper and silver mines, we are honest enough to advertise ours as a hole in the ground. It's just as honest as the rallroad deals taking place every day. hole in the ground big enough to hold all the money sent in by the suckers." "But who will bite at a hole in the ground?"

The Major's Scheme.

"Tens of thousands of people, most of whom wouldn't buy a thirty dollar cow for \$20 if offered by one of their neighbors. They've got oxoney to burn, and they had as soon burn it in a hole in the ground as anywhere else. I advertise it simply as a hole. The public imag-Instion buts wald affect couper, oil diamonds, rubles or what not into the hole and invests. I start out by offering \$1 shares for 5 cents. Then they jump to 10-20-30-40, and so on up. Just before each jump the suckers tumble over each other to get in at the old price."

"But you've got to come to an end somewhere," said Mr. White,

"Of course. After we have jumped the shares to 75 and the suckers are beginning to inquire about dividends we bank the last of their cash and start out to buy yachts and manor houses. The hole in the ground is left for them to go out west and look at. If some one has stolen the hole and carried it off, we are not to be held responsible. Eminently safe and dead easy. The suckers never make any trouble. If , they do, we bribe a lawyer to senre in the papers in March about the railroad king that mortgaged a railroad line not yet surveyed to buy the stock of a running road and water it onehaif? Our dodge is more honest than that."

"By thunder, but a feller once sold me a gold brick, and now I'd like to get even with some one else!" exclaimed Mr. White as he rose up and walked around.

"Then here's your opportunity, Noththe business.

'Where is the hole?" "We don't say." "What is in the hole? "We don't say."

"How deep is the hole? "We don't say." "How wide is it?" "We don't say."

All Kinds of Wealth. "We simply stick to the Great Amer-

ican Hole in the Ground, and the dear public does the rest. Five days after we begin advertising it will take a carpetbag to hold our money letters. In ten days we will need a barrel. In a month the letters will be brought from

ers. Ministers, widows, schoolteach, that he hadn't ambition enough to ers, orphans, pensioners and blind men at a cockroach with a stub pen all looking for that hole in the ground. and 100 per cent profits. Do you see? "Ganl durn me if I don't!" replied

"Willing to go in with me?" "Ten times over. How much do I get out of it?" "A salary of \$25,000 a year

Mr. White.

with. If you are active and prompt about opening the letters and taking out the suckers' money, you shall have a raise within three months. All we want to start with is the \$1,000 for advertising. And""And here is this much toward it."

And Mr. White went down into his pocket and fished up a quarter of a dollar and held it out on his paim. It was there a run minute before the major asked: "What for?"

"So much toward the thousand. I'll be on hand Monday morning to begin

opening the suckers' letters." The grand promoter had talked a lung out, and the other lung wanted a holiday. Therefore he couldn't talk. He simply sighed, took Mr. White by the shoulders and turned him around and pushed him out, and

pist anywhere looking out for the suck- general weakness stealing over



Father-Willie, your conduct of late has been most reprehensible. I cannot imagine where you learn such behavior.

Willie-Am I to understand, sir, that you entirely discredit the theory of heredity ?-- Woman's Home Companion,



MISS BESSIE WYNNE.

One of the prettiest young stage beauties is Miss Bessie Wynne, who is now playing in vandeville. She won considerable fame in the cast of "Babes the postoffice by a moving van. Not lu Toyland," as Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son, where she ran away with a a word from the postal authorities large share of public approval. Miss Wynne has the advantage of being a against the scheme. Not a philanthro- good sloger as well as an actress.